



Year 6 Spring Term Newsletter

English and Reading

Last term, Year 6 studied a range of texts and read two novels together (*Friend or Foe* by Michael Morpurgo and *Freedom* by Catherine Johnson), all of which inspired them to write their own stories, reports and poems. The class book for this half term is *The Crowstarver* by Dick King-Smith which is a short story based on grief and nature. We will study it in-depth, allowing pupils to not only use it as a model for their own writing, but to explore the various themes and infer what the different messages are that King-Smith leaves for his readers. The following half term we will read Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

I Am Malala is one of the non-fiction texts we will be studying that will allow Year 6 to explore more about the current situation many children find themselves in and their fight to receive an education. The class will listen to and watch powerful speakers such as Martin Luther King and Barack Obama, analysing the techniques of rhetoric. There will be opportunities to research more about education globally using websites such as UNESCO's which will help the children write and deliver their own persuasive speech.

In regards to poetry, we will be combining art and the power of words to write poems modelled on Maya Angelou's *Life Doesn't Frighten Me* accompanied by artwork inspired by Jean-Michel Basquiat's pieces. It's a brilliant unit which concentrates on well-being and the transition to secondary school.

Maths

This term will see Year 6 taught the likes of algebra, ratio and long division. It will also offer plenty of opportunities to practise solving word problems by identifying how many steps are required and what arithmetic skills they can apply to methodically reach the answer. Other topics taught are: mass, fractions, statistics and shape. Home learning is always used as an opportunity to consolidate what has been covered in class the previous week.

Science

Our topic this half-term is the circulatory system. 'Light' will be Year 6's topic in the next half term. At the end of every topic, the children sit an assessment to monitor the progress they are making. These scores and feedback can be shared with you during the next Academic Review Day.

Religious Education

Our focus this term will be on two faiths: Buddhism and Christianity. The first unit will focus on what it means to be a Buddhist. The class will find out what Buddhism teaches about suffering and how a Buddhist might view the purpose and meaning of life and truth. They will show an understanding of how a Buddhist might express their faith, hopefully with the support of a short trip across the road to the Kadampa Meditation Centre. The Christian festival of Easter will be studied after the half term break.

Humanities

Last term, Year 6 focussed on geography and learnt so much to do with climate change which concluded with producing their own video for the school community to watch. This term, we switch our focus to history. Firstly, the class will be finding out all about the history of medicine. A truly fascinating unit given that we are currently living through a pandemic. Afterwards, they will study the Battle of Britain which they already know lots about having read *Friend or Foe* and *Crowstarver* which both feature this crucial battle fought during the Second World War.

DT

This term, the students are being challenged to work in groups to design and build a bridge which stretches 30 cm and can hold 1 kg of weight. They will have to research different famous bridge designs and critically evaluate them in order for their own bridge to be a success. In order to complete this objective, they will work in small groups and rely on bringing in recyclable materials from home.

Music

Our music teacher will be working with the class every Monday. They will be practising their singing, getting the opportunity to use different instruments and composing their own pieces of music.

French

For the spring term, French will be taking place on a Wednesday afternoon with Mrs Vagic who will also be handing out French home learning.

PE

PE is now every Wednesday and Friday so those are the two days that the children must come to school in their PE kit. Victor, who works for Chelsea Foundation, will be delivering Wednesday's PE lesson, which will build on different skills used for invasion games, whilst Friday's lesson will focus on gymnastics in the hall.

PSHE

PSHE will be taught on a Monday afternoon this term using the Jigsaw scheme of work. The students will be looking ahead to secondary school and sharing their aspirations. There will also be a focus on a healthy lifestyle, both physically and mentally, which gives the pupils an opportunity to engage in conversations about drugs and the choices that we have.

Computing

Last term, Year 6's focus was on computer science, using Scratch and j2code to practise their programming skills. This term, the class switches their attention to graphics, text and data handling. They will carry on using j2e5 to create and share presentations on the class blog. They will be tasked with finding information online, designing a product on SketchUp Make and planning the cost of a party on Excel.

Home Learning

The children are now very comfortable using Google Classroom. Spelling and times tables are set every Monday and are due back Friday, the same day they are tested. Maths home learning is every Tuesday, due back Friday. English is assigned on a Wednesday and it is to be handed in no later than Monday morning. Certificates are awarded weekly for achieving full marks in tests and home learning. As mentioned before, Mrs Vagic will be setting French home learning based on what she teaches in class.

Key Dates for your diaries

5th January Term begins

14th - 18th February Half term

25th March Academic Review Day

1st April Term ends

Year 6 Spring 2022

Monday 8.45 Staff Meeting	Tuesday	Wednesday 8.45 Staff Meeting	Thursday	Friday 8.45 Staff Meeting
8.55 – 9.05 Sanitise hands/Registration	8.55 – 9.05 Sanitise hands/Registration	8.55 – 9.05 Sanitise hands/Registration	8.55 – 9.05 Sanitise hands/Registration	8.55 – 9.05 Sanitise hands/Registration
9.15 – 10.00 Music 10.00 – 11.10 English	9.05 – 10.15 English 10.15 – 11.10 Maths	9.05-10.15 English 10.15-11.10 PE	9.05 – 9.30 Whole school Worship/Class worship 9.30 – 10.20 English 10.20 – 11.10 Maths	9.05 – 10.05 PE -Hall 10.05-11.10 Maths & Times tables test
11.10 – 11.30 Break				
11.30-12.20 Maths 12.20 – 1.00 Destination Reader	11.30 – 12.20 Handwriting lesson 12.20-1.00 Destination Reader	11.30 – 12.30 Maths 12.30-1.00 Destination Reader	11.30 – 1.00 Computing/ Handwriting practice	11.30 –12.00 Destination Reader 12.00-1.00 English & Spelling test
1.00-1.50 Lunch				
1.50-2.30 PSHE 2.30 – 3.20 KS2 Worship Singing Practice 3.20 – 3.30 Dismiss	1.50-2.50 Humanities 2.50-3.20 Spelling Lesson 3.20-3.30 Class worship	1.50 – 2.45 French 2:45-3:30 Science	1.50 – 2.30 Destination Reader 2:30-3:30 RE	1.50 –2.30 Science 2.30-3.30 Art/DT